

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 030910Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1175

S E C R E T SEOUL 4936

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EXDIS

FOR ASST. SECY. HABIB FROM SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: F5ES FOR ROK

REF: STATE 156836 AND PREVIOUS

1. AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL, I HAVE CONCLUDED MOST RELUCTANTLY THAT WE MUST BOW TO "FORCE MAJEURE" AND TURN OVER TWENTY-ONE F5ES REHABILITATED AFTER TAIWAN USE. WE AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM ROKG, INCLUDING ADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR OUR DEFAULT ON ENHANCE PLUS PACKAGE. WE SHOULD PROBABLY MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE IT APPEARS FROM REFTEL THAT SWEETNERS DRAWN FROM SEA ASSETS WILL TAKE TIME TO WORK OUT.

2. HAVING WORKED FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITH YOU PERSONALLY, IN AN EFFORT TO FORESTALL THIS DEVELOPMENT, I DO NOT THINK I NEED TO MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ABOUT HOW THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN HANDLED. YOU MAY RECALL THAT AFTER YOUR VIGOROUS PROTEST LAST YEAR, WE FINALLY ARRANGED FOR THE TWENTY-ONE USED F5ES TO BE SENT TO VIETNAM RATHER THAN TO KOREA.

3. FOR THE RECORD, WE FIND OURSELVES UNABLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND LOGIC OF REASONING IN PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE

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REFTEL. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT SEVENTY-TWO F5ES PROGRAMMED

UNDER MOD PLAN FOR KOREA ARE NOW FULLY FUNDED OUT OF
FY'73, 74, AND 75, FUNDS, WITH EXCEPTION OF FINAL
ADD-ON OF 5.1 MILLION DOLLARS. IF ROKG PURCHASED OUT OF ITS
OWN REPEAT OWN FUNDS ON AN FMS CASH SALE BASIS THE TWENTY-ONE
F5ES NOW IN TAIWAN, THIS SHOULD NOT EFFECT AVAILABILITY OF MAP
FUNDS FOR THE FULL SEVENTY-TWO NEW AIRCRAFT. RECOUPED FUNDS
FROM SALE WOULD PRESUMABLY GO TO US TREASURY AND NOT HAVE TO
BE REPROGRAMMED UNDER MAP, UNLESS ROK MAP 73-75 FUNDS FOR F5ES
HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO OTHER PURPOSES.

4. ROKG HAS JUST REQUESTED LETTER OF OFFER FOR FIFTY-FOUR
F5ES AND SIX F5FS ON FMS BASIS. WE HAD HOPED TO PROVIDE FIRST
TWENTY-ONE F5FS ON STRAIGHT CASH SALE BASIS THROUGH SALE OF
TWENTY ONE F5ES NOW IN TAIWAN. THIS ACTION, INCIDENTALLY, WOULD
NOT EFFECT MAP FUNDING AS IMPLIED IN REFTTEL, BUT WE RECOGNIZE,
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS DOOR NOW APPEARS CLOSED.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE OUR MARCHING ORDERS AND WILL BE
PREPARED TO DO OUR BEST TO WARD OFF ROKG REACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL04936
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-0994
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750787/aaaaczwm.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 STATE 156836
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F5ES FOR ROK
TAGS: MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006